

REDEFINING SUCCESS IN MINISTRY

LEADING FOR IMPACT:

*Strategy and Spirituality
in Mission*

MI NATIONAL CONFERENCE

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National Director

www.sim.org.au

SUCCESS!

Most people desire it. Yet often elusive.

**No matter how much you have,
it is never enough.**

***Identify in your ministry, presently, areas where you
feel more like a failure or success or in between:***

Failure

Moderate

Success

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Who defines success for you?

Identify two or three individuals or groups that you look to declare that you are a success:

Where you feel inadequate?

How do they define success?

Identify three or four essentials to be a success in their eyes:



How do people in the world define success?

Identify three or four essentials:

.....

.....

.....

.....



The World's Definition of Success

- **Material** – money, house, car, clothes, entertainment, gadgets
- **Relationships** – spouse, children, boyfriend or girlfriend, popular people
- **Natural Talents** – beauty, sporting and intellectual abilities
- **Power, Position, Prestige, Popularity, Pleasures.**

The World's Definition of Success Essentially according to what you

POSSESS



How do most Christians define success most of the time?

- **Material** – money, house, car, clothes, entertainment, gadgets
- **Relationships** – spouse, children, boyfriend or girlfriend, popular people
- **Natural Talents** – beauty, sporting and intellectual abilities
- **Power, Position, Prestige, Popularity, Pleasures.**

Introduction

- Chinese – Indonesian – Australian
- Follower of Jesus since young
- 16 years – convinced Jesus only way, truth and life → willing to be a missionary.
- Medicine at UNSW, in Sydney (79 to 84)
- MDiv. at NEGST (Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology) '86-90



Kenyan Mission

- 1988 – Survived being chased by an elephant.



- 1989 – Met Kay and we married in 1990

Introduction

- **93-97 - Medical Doctor – General Practice**
- **98-'03 - Associate Pastor at Nairobi Chapel in Kenya (church grew from 800 to over 2000 people)**
- **March '04 - National Director SIM (Serving in Mission) Australia**



**The World essentially defines
success according to what you
possess**

**material, relationships, talents, power,
prestige , pleasures, etc.**

***Where might we be vulnerable to be
captivated by the world's definition of
success?***

**Jesus directly contradicts the world's
definition of success.**



LUKE 12:13-15 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" Then he said to them, "**Watch out!** Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."



LUKE 12:16-17 And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.'

LUKE 12:18

"You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." '



LUKE 12:20, 21

"But God said to him, `You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

"This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

**Then Jesus said to his disciples:
"Therefore I tell you, do not worry
about your life**

Luke 12:22-24 NIV

Then Jesus said to his disciples:

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.

Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds!

Luke 12:25-27 NIV

Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? “Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.

Luke 12:28-30 NIV

If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them.

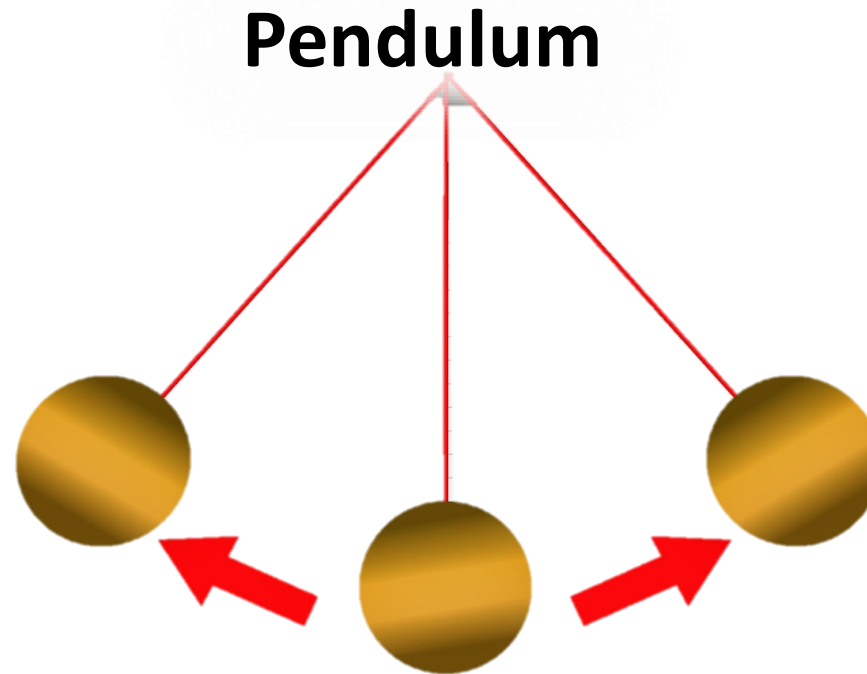
Luke 12:31-34 NIV

But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Reflection/Theory - Action Upward Spiral



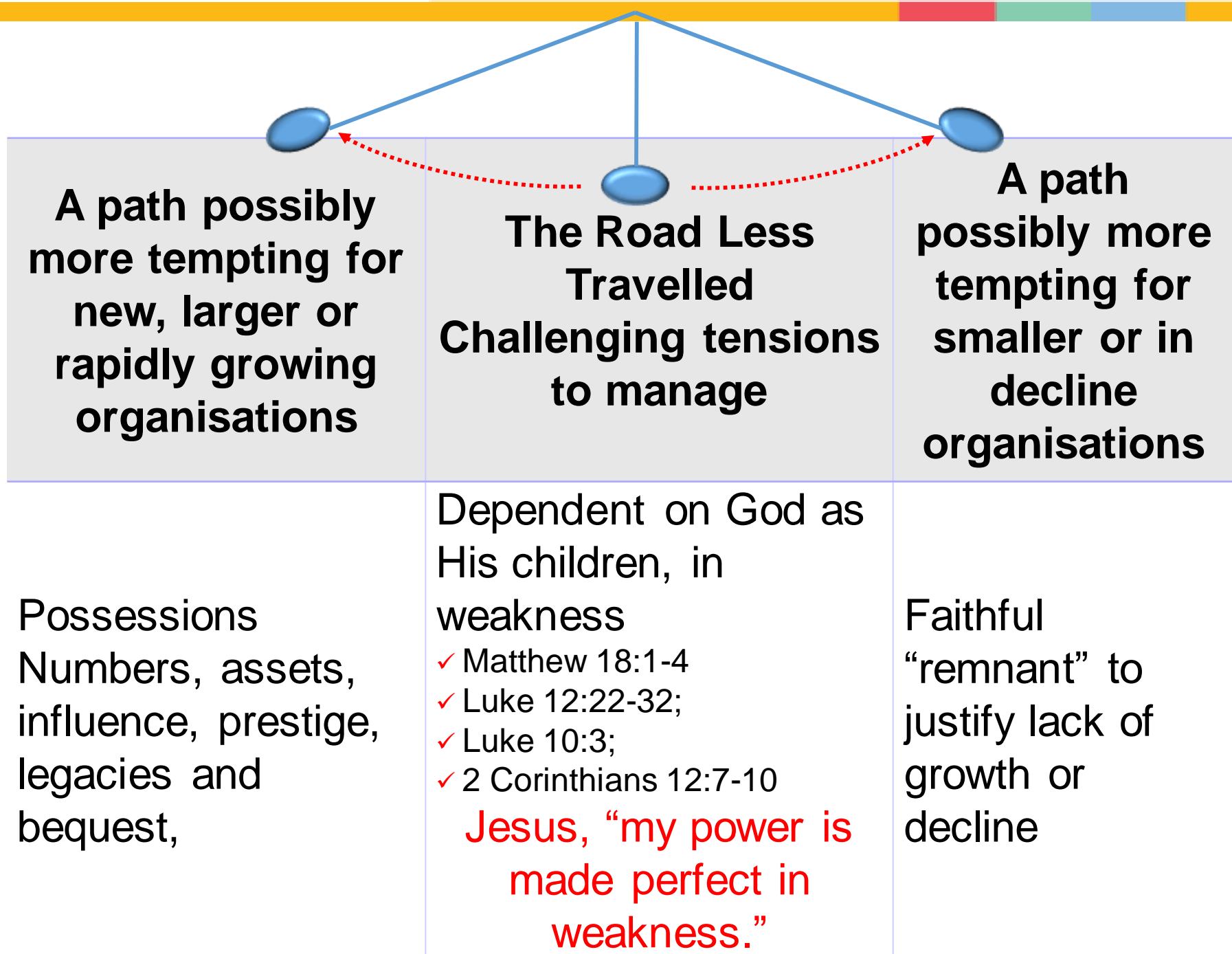
Challenge – Avoid Extremes:



Possessions
Pride

Road Less
Travelled

False Humility



Matthew 18:1-4 NIV

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them.

And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Luke 10:3 NIV



**Go! I am sending you out like
lambs among wolves**

2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10 NIV

..or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

<p>A path possibly more tempting for new, larger or rapidly growing organisations</p>	<p>The Road Less Travelled Challenging tensions to manage</p>	<p>A path possibly more tempting for smaller or in decline organisations</p>
<p>Pride and self-absorption in our own ministry and/or organisation</p>	<p>Kingdom focused more than self absorbed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Kingdom of God = Growth ✓ Mustard seed, yeast. Luke 13:18-21 ✓ Harvest. Mark 4:26-29; Luke 10:2-3 ✓ Light piercing and pushing back darkness ✓ Faithful servants = the 2 who returned more. Matthew 25:21, 23. 	<p>False humility over protective of name, history</p>

Whirlpool of self-absorption

Possessions

Mortgage

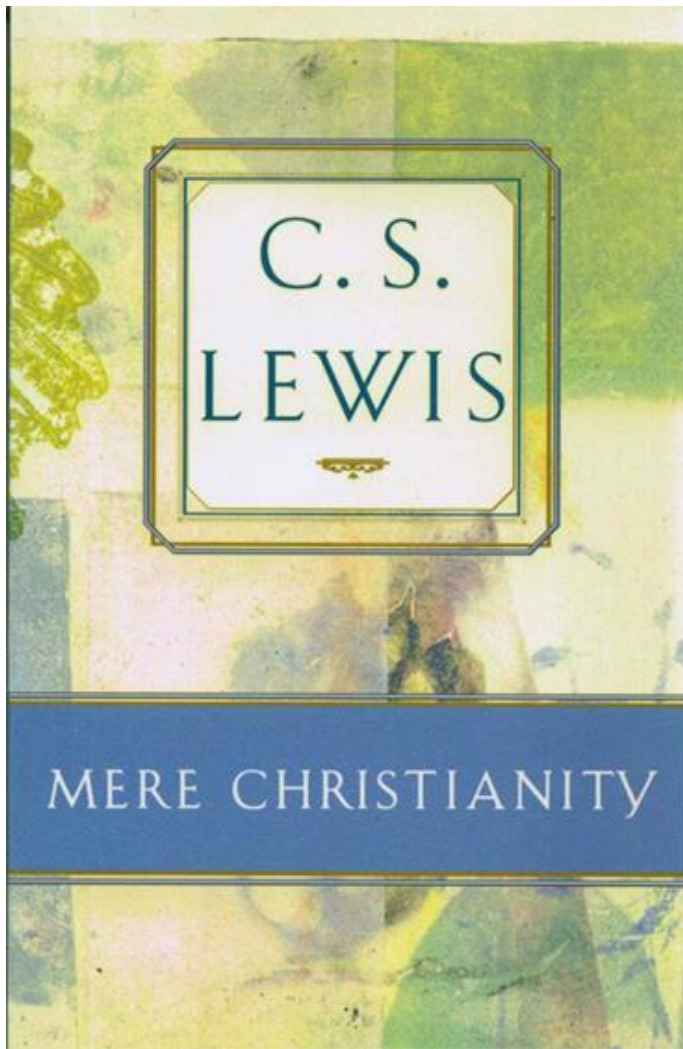
Struggles

Career

Lifestyle

Fears

We need to fight against the whirlpool of the world's definition of success



*Humility is not
thinking
less of yourself,*

*But thinking of yourself
less."*

Download free ebook

<http://www.churchleaders.com/merechristianity>

Luke 13:18-21 NIV

So He was saying, “What is the kingdom of God like, and to what shall I compare it? “It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and threw into his own garden; and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air nested in its branches.” again He said, “To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? “It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened.”

Mark 4:26-29 NIV

He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

Luke 10:2-3 NIV

He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.



Matthew 25:21,23 NIV

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ ...

A path possibly more tempting for new, larger or rapidly growing organisations	The Road Less Travelled Challenging tensions to manage	A path possibly more tempting for smaller or in decline organisations
Hoarding or spending on self	Generosity, especially to the poor. Luke 12:33-34	Poverty mentality

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INCOME

WEALTH

Which route should I choose?

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Enter annual net income:

55000

Show my results

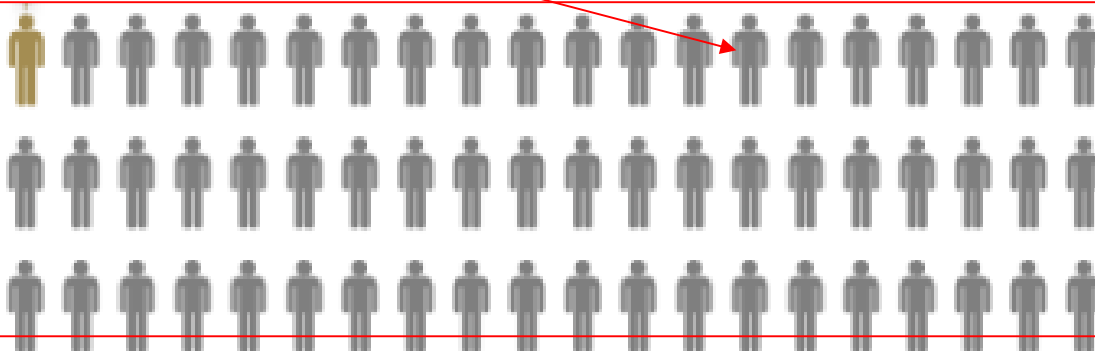
You



Poorer than you →

You're in the top

That makes yo



Luke 12:33-34 NIV

Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Reflection/Theory - Action Upward Spiral



Possible Application	Seek to balance team by having people who lean to either extremes and give equal voice		
	A path possibly more tempting for new, larger or rapidly growing org.s	The Road Less Travelled Challenging tensions to manage	A path possibly more tempting for smaller or in decline org.s
Leadership	Production driven	Sons and daughters; Servants; Shepherds; Stewards <i>“Driven” by the Mission of God/Kingdom of God</i> Faithful and Fruitful	Status quo

God's Mission a burden?



By Prayer in Community



**Not in our
own strength**



**Empowered by Christ and
with others**



Possible Application	Seek to balance team by having people who lean to either extremes and give equal voice		
	A path possibly more tempting for new, larger or rapidly growing organisations	The Road Less Travelled Challenging tensions to manage	A path possibly more tempting for smaller or in decline organisations
Management	Results based	Relationship and Results	Ignore results

Possible Application	Seek to balance team by having people who lean to either extremes and give equal voice		
	A path possibly more tempting for new, larger or rapidly growing organisations	The Road Less Travelled Challenging tensions to manage	A path possibly more tempting for smaller or in decline organisations
Strategies	Expansion focused	Growth and faithfulness to God and the mission	Tradition focused

**Possible
Application**

**Seek to balance team by having people who
lean to either extremes and give equal voice**

**A path possibly
more tempting for
new, larger or
rapidly growing
org.s**

**The Road Less
Travelled
Challenging
tensions to manage**

**A path
possibly more
tempting for
smaller or in
decline org.s**

**Measurements
or metrics**

Earthly oriented

Both earthly and
tangible with an eye
on the unseen, e.g.
sowing seeds, faithful
activities

Intangibles and
“Eternity” only

Possible Application	Seek to balance team by having people who lean to either extremes and give equal voice		
	A path possibly more tempting for new, larger or rapidly growing org.s	The Road Less Travelled Challenging tensions to manage	A path possibly more tempting for smaller or in decline org.s
Resources including people and money	Utilitarian, “use” people	Struggle with tensions caring for employees with sustainability, cost effectiveness and productivity	People use the organisation

PARALLEL TRACKS OF APPARENT CONTRADICTIONS , SIMULTANEOUS SORROWS AND JOYS





JOY

Praise

Success

Victory

SORROW

Lament

Disaster

Defeat

Romans 12: 15

“Rejoice with those who rejoice;

Mourn with those who mourn.

Reflecting to God

**Jesus, “... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
Matthew 5: 16**



Picture of us?



Joyful and radiant in a team